

Teresa (Frances) Ball



1794 - 1861



Teresa Ball continues the vision of Mary Ward





In the footsteps of Mary Ward

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w99rpo8VwbM> (synopsis of the life of Mary Ward)

Frances Ball – Family Tree and Childhood

- **D.O.B:** 06 January 1794
- **Address:** 63 Eccles Street, Dublin 1
- **Baptised:** St Michan's Church.
- **Father:** John Ball (died 1804)
Occupation: Silk merchant
- **Mother:** Mabel Clare Bennet, Eyrecourt, Galway
- **Siblings:** John Ball (half-brother), Cecilia, Anna Marie, Isabella, Nicholas





Frances Ball – Family Tree and Childhood

- **Family Education:**
- **Cecilia** – Ursuline Order in Cork, later became an Ursuline Sister and founded the Ursuline house in Blackrock, Cork.
- **Anna Marie:** Attended Mary Ward's school in York, England 1798 – 1803. Co Foundress of the Religious Sisters of Charity with Mary Aikenhead. Anne Marie founded an Orphanage in Harold's Cross, Dublin and a refuge for women in the Coombe.
- **Isabella:** attended Mary Ward's school in York, England 1798 - 1803
- **Nicholas:** Attended Jesuit school in Stoneyhurst, England, Trinity College and Kings Inn and became a barrister. Later became an MP for a year. Married with three children. Anne became a religious sister in Cork, Mary in York and his son became an Oratian priest.
- **Frances:** Attended Mary Ward's school in York 1803 – 1808. Education continued by her brother, Nicholas.

Early School Days

The apple of her father's eye, Frances was very upset when she was sent to school in York. She tried to have herself expelled by behaving badly. After her father's death in April 1804, although greatly saddened by her bereavement, Frances settled down in school. She was an intelligent, artistic and popular student. Mrs Ball was lonely following the death of her husband and decided to bring Frances back to Ireland in 1808.

Frances did not wish to end her studies and her brother, Nicholas, promised to continue her education himself.

Student Engagement



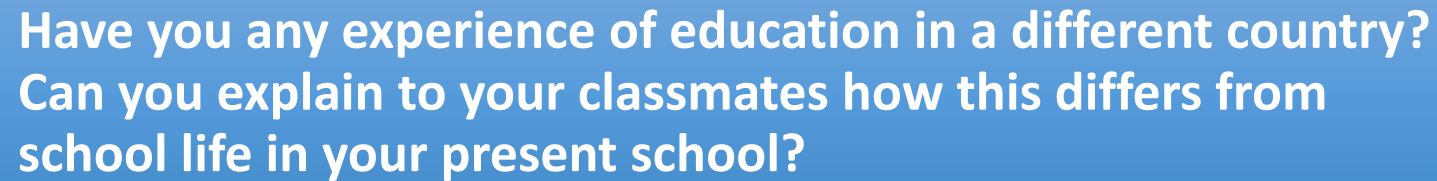
How did you feel leaving the comfort of Primary School and starting your second level education?



What did you learn from that experience?

Student Engagement

Have you any experience of education in a different country?
Can you explain to your classmates how this differs from
school life in your present school?



Would you like to study abroad in the future?



Have you any relatives living abroad? What do they miss or
not miss about Ireland? Is distance still as much of an issue
as it was in Frances' time?



Student Engagement

- If you were to visit a Loreto school in a different country how do you think you would recognise it as a Loreto school? Read the websites of Loreto schools around the world and identify what you feel they have in common. (Website links.....)



Student Engagement



**‘Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.’
‘No person is an island.’**



**Is this true? Do we all
need someone in whom
to confide?**



**What can be the
consequences of not
talking about a concern?**



**To whom can you speak
about a concern?**

Frances Ball – change of plan!

- In March 1810 Frances Ball aged 17 went to her **Debutantes' Ball**. Frances had completed 6 years as a student in York.
- Frances had dreams of marrying a wealthy young man so that she could continue, as her father did, to help the poor of Dublin and to have a family.

“A Debs with a difference”

It was while she was dancing that Frances had an experience that was to change the rest of her life. She heard a voice saying ‘Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice and all things else shall be added unto you.’

The next day Frances went to Mass and later spoke to her close friend Father Daniel Murray. He advised her to pray to understand better the meaning behind these words.





Seek first the kingdom
of God and his justice
and all things else shall
be added unto you.

Frances following her vocation

Frances' mother and brother had an expectation that Frances would marry a suitable husband. Her mother would not countenance France returning to York as a novice.

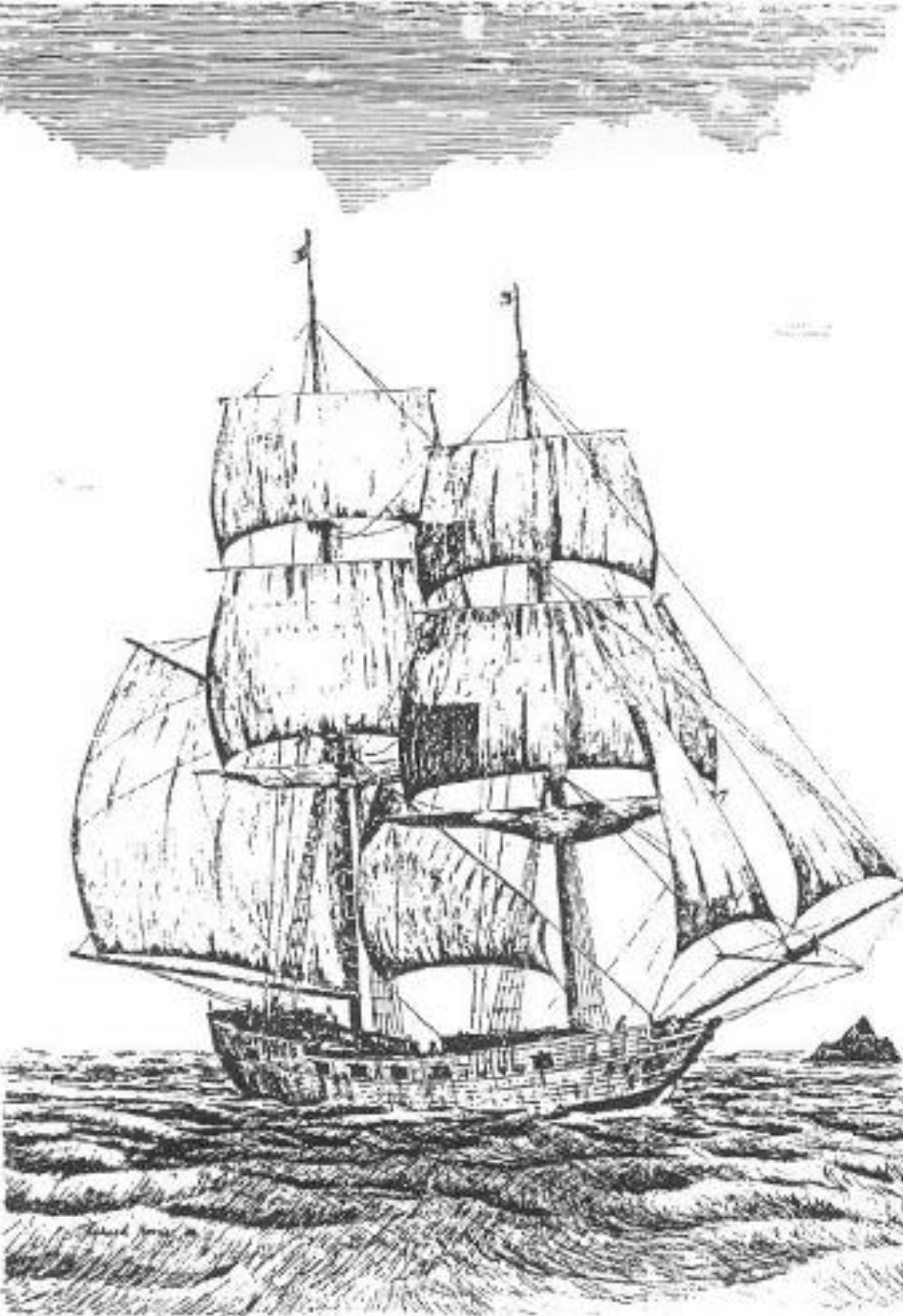
One morning Frances and her mother went to Mass in a different church to usual. The priest spoke about parents who block God's plans in their children who wish to follow Him. Frances's mother thought these words were meant for her. She relented and allowed Frances to go to York.

Frances following her vocation

- Dr Murray hoped that Frances and a group of sisters would come back and set up a community of the I.B.V.M. in Dublin. The Leader of the community in York, Mother Coyney, agreed to train Frances and a few other Irish girls and allow them to return. She did not feel that, given the political situation at the time, a group of English educators would be welcome in Dublin.

Frances following her vocation (2)

- Frances left for York on 11 June 1814 accompanied by her brother Nicholas. To Frances' delight Mary Aikenhead was also in York preparing for the Founding of the Sisters of Charity in Ireland.



The brig ACTIVE redrawn by Auckland artist Richard Horner in 1988.

Call and Response



*I listened to God's
deep dream for
us and felt a
desire to respond
to this invitation*

Student Engagement



Is the 'Debs' an important occasion for young people nowadays? In what way?



From your study of the New Testament, can you identify any time when God was heard to speak?



In this era of Face Book, Twitter, Instagram etc. means of communication are constantly evolving. How do you think God speaks to us today? Does he speak to everyone in the same manner?



Can you identify any time in your life so far when you could feel the presence of God in a decision you made either at that time or in retrospect?

Frances Ball – Mentors

- **Father**
- Frances' father was her primary mentor. She was aware that he was very well known for his kindness and fairness to his employees. The poor of Dublin turned out in great numbers at his funeral as a sign of their respect for him. She experienced his acceptance of her impetuous personality and his respect for all the women in his life. His death had a huge effect on her. She was subsequently unable to pass on bad news to anyone concerning the death of a loved one.
- **Brother - Nicholas**
- Frances' brother had a great effect on her. Nicholas brought her home from York in 1808. He insisted that her education continue and that she be widely read, versed in the classics and excelled in public speaking.
- He accompanied her to the Debutantes' Ball and later to York when she returned as a novice.

Frances Ball – Mentors

Sister – Anne Marie



Anne Marie was a strong defender of the underprivileged. She founded an Orphanage in Harold's Cross and a refuge for women in the Coombe.



She was the co-foundress with Mary Aikenhead of the Irish Sisters of Charity. Frances accompanied her on her visits to the poor of Dublin. These experiences may have inspired Frances to open a free school beside every fee - paying school she founded.

Frances Ball – Mentors

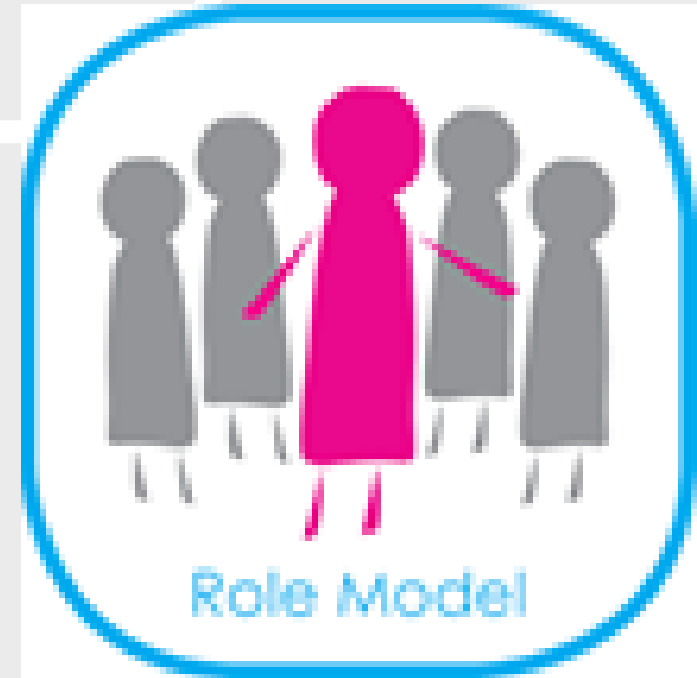
- **Friend - Father Daniel Murray**
- Father Daniel Murray was ordained in 1790 and later in 1809 became Co-Adjutor Bishop of Dublin. He was famous for his oratory. He laid the foundation stone of the Pro Cathedral in 1815 and was responsible for the opening of 220 catholic schools in the Dublin Diocese. He encouraged the founding of the Irish Sisters of Charity he was instrumental in Frances bringing the Loreto Order to Dublin. All Hallows College, a training college for missionary priests, was attributed to him and he introduced the Society of St Vincent de Paul to Ireland.
- Dr. Murray's two nieces had attended York as pupils and his dream was that Frances, once trained in the spirituality of the I.B.V.M., would bring that to Ireland to provide an education for Irish children.

Student
Engagement
What does the
term Mentor
mean?



Student Engagement

- What qualities would you consider necessary in a mentor?
- Can you identify any mentor(s) in your life?
- In what way have you been mentored?





Student Engagement

Have you been a mentor to anyone?

Is there a role for student mentors in the school?

Frances following her vocation

- Frances' time in the novitiate was testing but her spirit remained strong. She took the name Teresa after Teresa of Avila.
- She was popular with the children, some of whom, later joined her as novices in Rathfarnham, Dublin, or sent their own children to be educated with her.
- On 09 September 1816 she made her Final Profession in York. She took as her motto 'the mercies of the Lord I will sing forever.'



Student Engagement



Is there a difference between choosing a career path and having a vocation?





Frances returns to Ireland

- Good news came to Frances (now Teresa Ball) in 1819. Another girl arrived from Ireland. She was Anne Therry from Cork and the following October another young woman presented herself in York. Her name was Eleanor Arthur, originally from Limerick.



Frances returns to Ireland

- Meanwhile, her friend and mentor, Dr Murray had purchased a run- down house and 40 acres of land in Rathfarnham, Dublin for Frances, (Mother Teresa) and her fellow two sisters, Sister Baptist Therry and Sister Ignatius Arthur, to establish a convent and school. The three sisters left York in August 1821. By now Frances had spent six years at school in the Bar Convent and seven subsequent years preparing for this endeavour.

Frances returns to Ireland

It seems that Frances fortuitously refused to go on the designated ship to Ireland as that ship subsequently sank with all on board drowned.

Frances began her journey by reciting the Litany of Loreto. Loreto was the place that Mary Ward had gone to on her way to see the Pope in Rome.

Frances returns to Ireland (2)

- When they reached their destination the house in Rathfarnham was not habitable, so Frances accepted an invitation from Mary Aikenhead of the Sisters of Charity to stay with them in Stanhope Place until Rathfarnham was made ready.



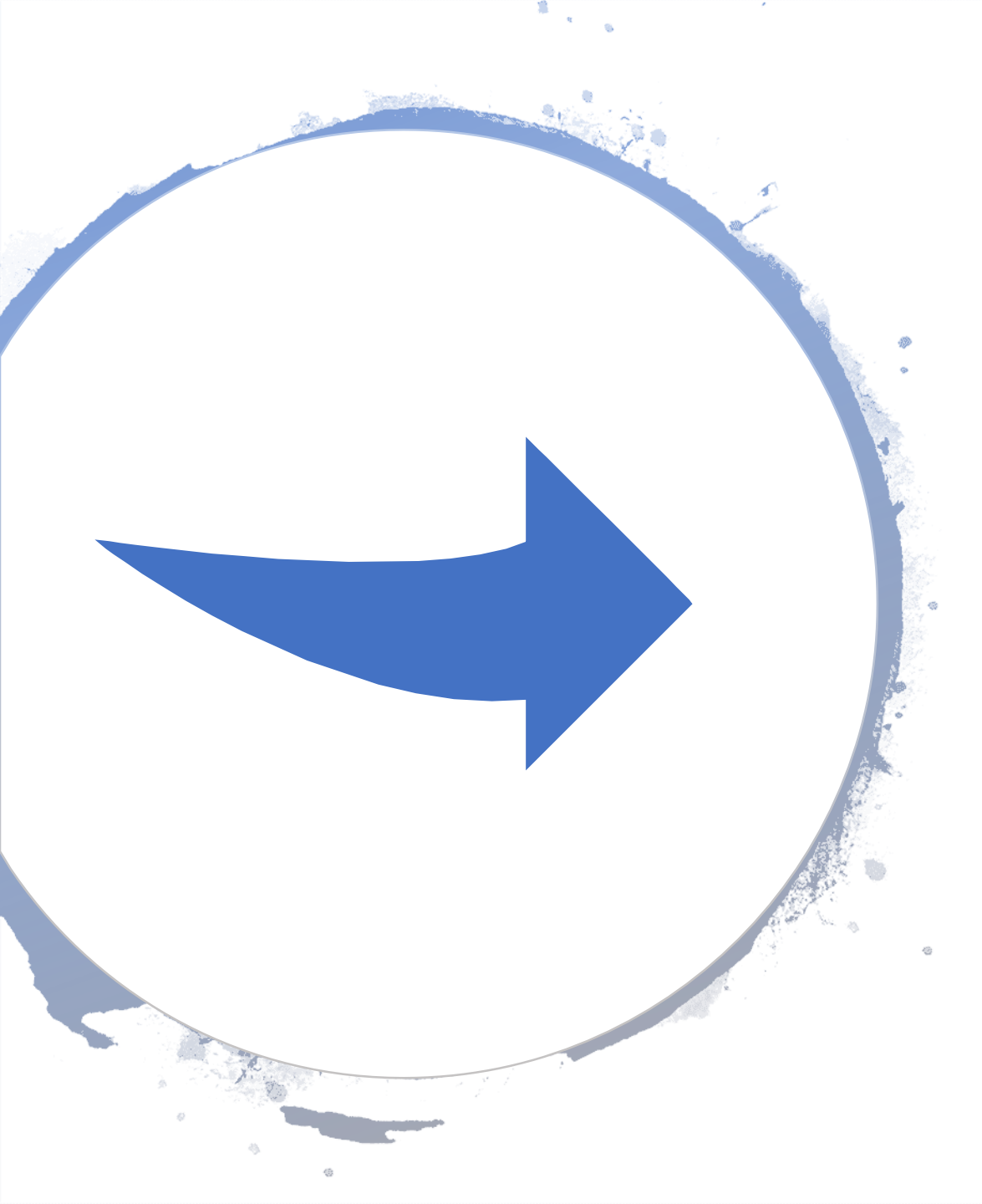


Frances returns to Ireland (2)

- Frances called her first house in Ireland after the Holy House of Loreto and that is what this new congregation became known as in Ireland and as they moved to other parts of the world. In Pontifical terms the congregation was known as the Irish Branch of the I.V.B.M. (The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Frances returns to Ireland (3)

- During the time that the house in Rathfarnham was being made ready the three sisters rented a house in Harolds Cross in Dublin. **In May 1822 they opened the first IBVM convent in Ireland there. On 04 November 1822 they finally moved into Rathfarnham.**
- Waiting to greet them were Frances' mother, her sisters Anna Maria and Isabella, her brother Nicolaus, the sister and husband of Eleanor Arthur (Sister Ignatius), an old friend of Frances, and the 13 boarders from their temporary school in Harolds Cross.
- To open the school Frances had to get a licence from the local Protestant Minister and she had to take an oath of allegiance to the King of England.



Student Engagement

- It would seem that the Holy Spirit was guiding Frances not to embark on the designated ship.
- ✚ Have you ever felt you had a lucky escape?
- ✚ How did you react?

Student Engagement

What's in a Name?!

Please view this short film on the History of the Shrine in Loreto, Italy.

It was in honour of this shrine that Frances Ball named the house in Rathfarnham, Dublin and all subsequent convents and schools founded by sisters from Rathfarnham.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hswvJ2uurk>

Student Engagement



- The opening of a new school or a new facility in an existing school is always a memorable occasion.
- ✚ What might Frances have written in her diary on the evening of the opening of Loreto Rathfarnham?

Student Engagement



Imagine that you are asked to give a speech at the opening of your new school/school wing/facility. What would you say to the school community?

Loreto Education circa 1822



The school system of the time bore some similarities to the school curriculum today but there were many differences too.



French was the official language of instruction.



Languages, drama, music and art were studied by all.



Needlework was encouraged.



The students did not return home for Christmas .



Frances (Mother Teresa) advised her teachers to be tender in their treatment of the pupils but firm at the same time.



There were awards for good behaviour distributed at assembly.



Loreto Rathfarnham

LORETO ABBEY, RATHFARNHAM

New Vocations

- From 1822 – 1825 five young women joined the small group of Sisters as postulants/novices. Between 1828 and 1833 sixteen girls who had been educated in the Abbey Rathfarnham joined the order. Frances (Mother Teresa) trained the novices herself. She planned courses for them in languages, Art, History, Music and other areas of the curriculum that were considered important at the time. She also included skills related to administration and care of the sick.

Historical Context

Most of the wealthy families in Dublin were from the Protestant Ascendancy. The Balls were amongst the few wealthy catholic families in the city. There were several Protestant schools in the city and the administrators of these schools feared losing some of their catholic students to schools such as Loreto Rathfarnham. Rumours were spread about how badly the school was being run. However, despite this opposition and the financial challenges the school faced it continued to flourish.

Frances opened a school for the poor alongside the fee-paying school.



Student Engagement

- **Design a website page for Loreto Abbey circa 1830**



Expansion

- The success of the Abbey in Rathfarnham spread far and wide. Mother Teresa received constant requests to found schools in other parts of Ireland and abroad.

Expansion (2)



Mother Teresa was requested to open a school in **Navan, Co Meath**.



The house being provided in Navan was in a very poor state. Mother Teresa took on the challenge and managed to have the place ready to open on 31 July 1833. The new school was called **St Anne's**. A boarding school was later added called **St Michael's**.



It was the first school to be opened from Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham and also the first Catholic day school run by religious in Ireland.



On 05 September 1833 another school was opened in **Harcourt Street, Dublin**. In 1841 the school moved to the house of Lord Charleville in St Stephen's Green



Expansion (3)

- Mother Teresa received a request to send some of the Sisters to India. A small group set off for **Calcutta, present day Kolkata** in 1841. They sailed from Dunlaoghaire and it was reported that Mother Teresa watched them from the top of a house she had rented in Bullock Harbour, Dalkey. It was highly unlikely that any of the Sisters would ever return to Ireland .



Further
foundations
included:

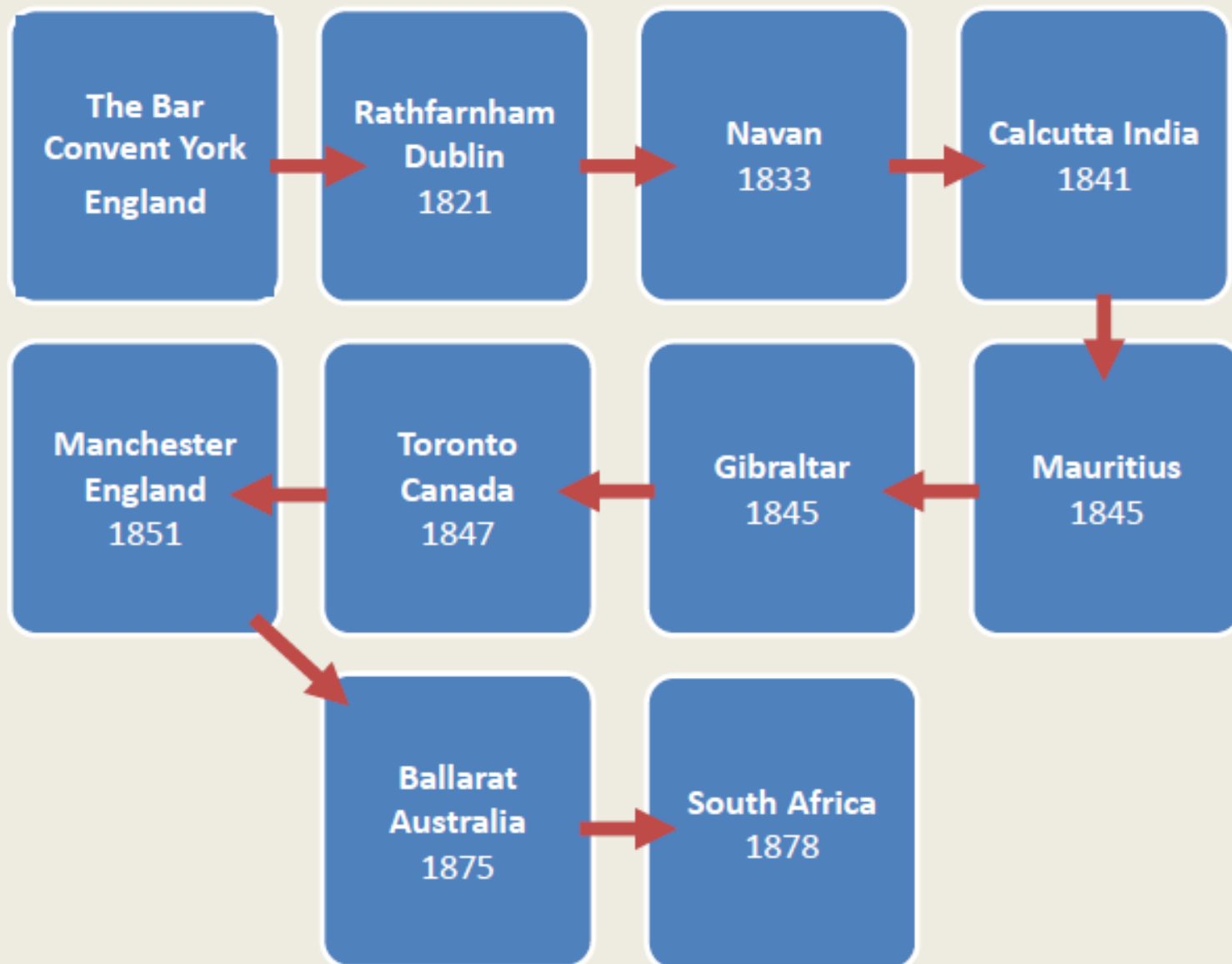
1841	Calcutta (Kolkata) First overseas mission
1833 1843	Gorey Dalkey
1856 1872	Wexford Enniscorthy
1845	Mauritius Gibraltar
1847	Canada Clontarf Dublin
1850	Bray
1851	England Spain
1852	Lough Cooter (2 years)
1853	Fermoy
1854	Letterkenny
1855	Omagh
1857	Balbriggan
1859	Borris
1860	Killarney



Expansion (4)

- By the time of her death on 19th May 1861 in Loreto Dalkey, Mother Teresa had founded 37 communities around the world. She is buried in the grounds of the Abbey, Rathfarnham.

Historical Diagram





Student Engagement

❖ What do you know about the early days of your own Loreto School?

Student Engagement

What is the definition
of a pioneer?

What qualities are
required in a pioneer?

Who else do you
admire in this respect
and why?

Can you create a
picture or word collage
illustrating the
qualities of such a
person?



The Legacy /Making a Difference

- Frances Ball, the young girl from Dublin, followed her heart and in so doing ultimately created an amazing legacy.
- In truth, her story never ends as her spirit continues in all Loreto ventures throughout the world.



The Vision of Mary Ward and Teresa Ball lives on...

<http://www.loreto.org.au/>

<https://www.loreto.rumbek.ie/>

<http://www.loreto.in/>

